

Welcome!

I hope you find this site informative and helpful because it was created just for you. If the information you are seeking is not here or you need to contact me directly, simply shoot me an email: [dalen.howard@slcschools.org](mailto:dalen.howard@slcschools.org) or call or text: (760) 554-8938

## Mr. Howard's English 7 Classroom Policies and Procedures Disclosure Document

### Classroom Expectations

**The Rule of Thirty always applies:** Ask yourself, *if all thirty (plus) students were doing what I am doing, could effective learning take place?* If the answer is *no*, please change your behavior. The teacher has the right to teach, and all students have the right to learn (without someone tapping a beat with their pencil or feet, whispering snarky comments to get a laugh, calling out in an attempt to distract the class, or my all-time favorite...whistling random tunes). Please be mindful of others.

- **Stay in your seat, knees under your desk, feet on the floor.**
- **Call out only when given permission.**
- **Use a respectful tone with everyone.**
- **Come to class prepared to read, write, and participate.**
- **Always pick up any assignments from the red square upon entering the classroom.**
- **Turn in assignments to your class period pile.**
- **Write your name and period number on ALL assignments.**

### Tardy Policy

I have a bell-to-bell learning policy. Be in your seat, working on the entry task when the bell finishes ringing. At the end of the period, please wait for me to dismiss you. The bell does not dismiss class; the teacher does. Let's make the most of our 45 minutes every day.

### Supplies Needed in Class

- 1 **one-subject** composition book (no pages will be removed)
- loose-leaf notebook paper (to be replenished as needed) and pens/pencils.
- A **reading book** of your choice (FRIDAY'S ONLY)

### On Lending Pens and Other Preparation Problems

I have markers you may borrow to complete assignments if needed. Keep in mind that work completed in marker will receive a 10% deduction for lack of preparation. Students

who are on task and come to class with the supplies listed above will benefit from daily professionalism points.

### **Late Work**

Late work that is not finished properly will not be graded and must be redone for credit. During our reading days every Friday students will have the option to finish any assignment they did not finish in class.

### **Be Nice!**

Name calling, teasing, gossiping, shoving, tripping, pinching, back talking, taking/hiding another's property, or gesturing that is aimed to embarrass, minimize, or taunt someone else—teachers and substitutes included--will be stopped immediately and will result in lost citizenship points or a principal referral. Be nice! There are plenty of ways to get attention without acting like a pest. Please use your manners and speak kindly to everyone. Thank you.

### **Absent Policy**

Students are responsible for asking what they missed when absent. They have the option to finish their missed work at home or on Fridays. If more information is needed, I will be happy to help reteach or explain assignments during on Fridays or by appointment. **Students who ask for work *prior* to an absence will be expected to turn in finished work upon their return.** If a student will not have time to complete the work during an absence, please **do not ask for the work in advance**. Extended illnesses or emergencies are, of course, exceptions.

### **Focus of Instruction this Year**

Argumentative, Expository, and Narrative Writing\* Close Reading and Annotation\*  
Word Study: Commonly Confused Words, Prefixes, Suffixes, Roots\* Finding the Main  
Idea of Speeches and Formal Writings\* Recognition and Formation of Literary Elements  
and Devices\* Home (Personal) Reading\* Group Participation, Preparation, and  
Production\* Grammar and Punctuation\* Revision Strategies\* Reading Strategies\*

### **Some of the Reading Material for the Year**

Any and all readings found in the our classroom textbook *Collections*. Feel free to stop by and take a look at it during the school year.

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

A variety of poetry, informational articles, authentic documents, video clips, and speeches will also be used to supplement the readings above.

Any of these readings are subject to change; however, students and parents will be informed before implementing any changes to this list.

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit will be awarded for work that goes above and beyond the expectations outlined.

### **Home Reading**

Students are challenged to read as many books as they possibly can every month.

### **The *Almost* No Homework Policy**

Students will complete and submit in class the bulk of the assignments they will receive throughout the year. Any work not finished in class will be assigned as homework. *This policy is subject to change depending on the overall academic progress and behavior of each class.*

My reasoning for assigning little to no homework DOES NOT stem from a desire to provide a less-than-rigorous workload. Quite the opposite! I will prepare them as much as possible for academically, vocationally, and financially successful lives. In order to ensure their achievement of these goals, I need to know that the work I am assessing from them is, indeed, their own work, and not that of anyone else.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is more than copying something from the internet (or other sources) and saying it is your work. It also includes copying an assignment from a friend because you were absent, didn't finish the assignment, or forgot it was due. Having a parent or sibling help you edit and revise a writing assignment is not plagiarism UNLESS the person helping takes the pen (or keyboard) in hand or dictates the writing to you.

Thanks to technology, plagiarism is extremely easy to detect. If a student is caught copying or if plagiarism is discovered via internet tools, a "0" will be assigned. Cheating is serious business, folks! Here is a plagiarism-inspired poem to help illustrate my point in a very English "teachery" sort of way:

Plagiarism  
Plagiarism is snarky  
It smells like a humid computer lab, full of procrastinators.  
It tastes like bile in your throat.  
It sounds like click!click!click! Copy and Paste.  
It feels like receiving a gold medal for a race you didn't even bother to enter.  
It is written in the heart, soul, and conscience of every cheater.

### **Disclosure Document Efficacy**

Any and every portion of this document is subject to change; however, parents and students will be notified for any drastic changes. As well, additional sections may be added as the school year progresses.

**You are capable of amazing things! I look forward to reading your work and helping you develop your own writing style.  
English class is a great place to read, write, think, and connect!**

I have visited <https://goo.gl/x8rJE9> and/or had my student explain the policies for Mr. Howard's English 7 class.

Student's First and Last Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_